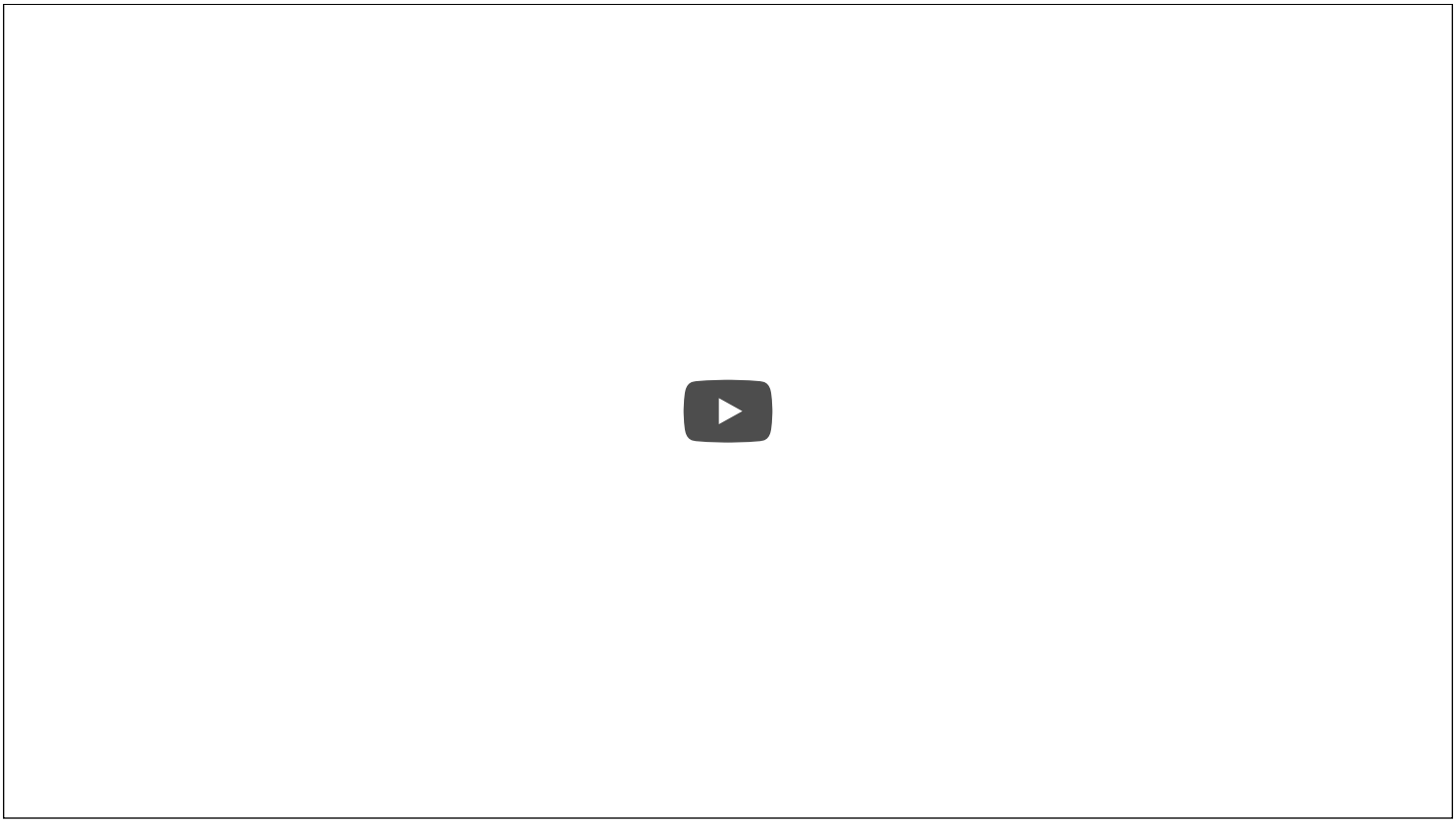

The Disappearing Russian Gold Reserves of 1917

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In 1917, the Russian Empire collapsed — and with it, one of the largest gold reserves in the world disappeared. Over 1,200 tons of bullion, enough to anchor the ruble and project financial power across continents, simply vanished into the chaos of war and revolution. Some went to foreign banks, some funded the Bolsheviks, and some was looted by generals and smugglers. Most of it was never recovered.

This episode of The Financial Historian unpacks how Russia's disappearing gold shaped the fate of an empire, fueled civil war, and still echoes in the way governments manipulate reserves today. From Tsarist collapse to modern currency crises, this is economic history that reveals how money and power truly work — and why financial education is the only way to protect yourself.

If this gave you a new perspective, hit subscribe. History doesn't repeat — but if you don't understand it, it will crush you all the same.

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@doctordetroit4339 6 days ago
Check London and then Tel Aviv.....I think you'll find it.

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@matthewmenchaca5686 6 days ago
You're videos are awesomely short and very informative. Please continue making. good day.

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@brilliantmkhwananzi9626 4 days ago
I'm trying to to remember who looted Russia after the fall of the Soviet, I think they were of Middle Eastern origin and are currently leading Ukraine in the war against Russia after leading the Bolshevik Revolution against the Russian Empire

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@Quentof 7 hours ago
As a young boy from eastern Poland, I once heard a story from Russia told by my parents. They, in turn, heard it from their friends. Toward the end of the last Tsar's reign, when ordinary Russians were protesting for bread. Sometime in 1916, the Tsar ordered the military evacuation of some of the gold from Petrograd (St. Petersburg). Supposedly, over 300 tons of gold was removed on the Tsar's orders and buried in an unspecified location. The soldiers and officers who did so and returned to the Tsar with a report were shot on his orders. This way, only the Tsar would know where the gold was hidden. A year …
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@allenhaggstrom7867 5 days ago
Canadian government has zero gold reserves.
Crazy times.

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1 reply

@sustainablerenewableintegr8311 4 days ago (edited)
Remember the lesson here, folks... Not your vault, not your gold... There's a reason PBOC is shipping back all its gold from London and New York to Shanghai and Hong Kong

Correction: Not a reason, but 2 reasons. Lol! I don't want to jump the gun here. Perhaps the OP knows what I meant and will do a video about it later
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@CplusO2 6 days ago
Really enjoying your writing, thank you.

5 Reply

2 replies

@benoithemeryck8632 7 days ago
Like your channel very much!

5 Reply

@ObjectiveAnalysis 7 days ago (edited)
4:37 “the once mighty empire had not only lost its monarchy..” erm are you aware of the Russian revolution? They didn’t “loose” the (British) monarchy, they overthrew it

7 Reply

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@peetsnort 6 days ago
Like the pile of gold in building 7